

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of the claims replaces all previous listings in this application.

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) Concrete article, characterised by the fact that the concrete article contains a concrete thickener comprising the following components:
 - a) about 20 to about 40 % by weight, ~~preferably about 30 % by weight~~, of at least one thickening agent;
 - b) about 20 to about 40 % by weight, ~~preferably about 30 % by weight~~, of at least one hydrophobing additive; and
 - c) remainder water.
2. (Currently Amended) The ~~concrete article~~ process as claimed in ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 11, wherein ~~the fact that the thickening agent is an organic or inorganic polymer.~~
3. (Currently Amended) The ~~concrete article~~ process as claimed in Claim 2, wherein ~~the fact that the thickening agent is selected from the group consisting of polyacrylates, polymethacrylates, polyurethanes, alginates, polyoses, cellulose derivatives, polycarboxylic acids, polyethers, polyimines, polyamides, silicic acid derivatives, zeolites and/or combinations thereof, polyacrylates, polyurethanes, cellulose derivatives and silicic acid derivatives being preferred.~~
4. (Currently Amended) The ~~concrete article~~ process as claimed in ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 11, wherein ~~the fact that the concrete thickener is present in the concrete article in a proportion of about 0.01 to about 2.0 % by weight, preferably about 0.04 to about 1.0 % by weight.~~
5. (Currently Amended) The ~~concrete article~~ process as claimed in ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 11, ~~the fact that~~ wherein the hydrophobing additive is selected from the group consisting of silanes, siloxanes, silicones, siliconates, fluorosilicates, hydrosilanes, fatty acids and their salts, waxes, acrylic resins, epoxy resins, polyurethane resins, sodium silicates (alkali silicates), silicic acid esters and/or combinations thereof.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~concrete article~~ process as claimed in ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 11, wherein ~~the fact that~~ the concrete thickener further comprises dyes, water-soluble polymers, polymer dispersions, surface-active substances or mixtures thereof.
7. (Currently Amended) The ~~concrete article~~ process as claimed in ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 11, wherein ~~the fact that~~ the concrete article contains further concrete admixtures, such as concrete additives and/or concrete addition agents.
8. (Currently Amended) The ~~concrete article~~ process as claimed in Claim 7, wherein ~~the fact that~~ the concrete additives are selected from the group consisting of concrete liquefiers, fluxes, air pore forming materials, sealing agents, retarders, accelerators, injection aids, stabilisers, chromate reducers, recycling aids for washing water and/or combinations thereof, and the concrete addition agents are selected from the group consisting of trass, powdered stone, coal flue dust, silica dust, pigments and/or combinations thereof.
9. (Currently Amended) The ~~concrete article~~ process as claimed in ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 11, wherein a water/cement ratio of about 0.3 to about 0.5 preferably about 0.4.
10. (Withdrawn) The concrete article as claimed in Claim 1, produced in a vibration-compaction process.
11. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a concrete article, ~~especially as claimed in Claim 1~~, comprising the following steps:
 - i) ~~mixing cement, grains of stone and make-up water, and optionally further concrete admixtures, such as concrete additives and/or concrete addition agents, in a mixer; and~~
 - ii) subsequently adding a concrete thickener to the mixture from step i), the concrete thickener comprising the following components:
 - a) about 20 to about 40 % by weight, ~~preferably about 30 % by weight~~, of at least one thickening agent;
 - b) about 20 to about 40 % by weight, ~~preferably about 30 % by weight~~, of at least one hydrophobing additive; and
 - c) remainder water.

12. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in Claim 11, characterised by ~~the fact that the~~ concrete thickener is added into the mixer via an evacuation pump and a spray nozzle.
13. (Withdrawn) A concrete thickener, especially one for thickening a concrete article, which comprises the following components:
- a) about 20 to about 40 % by weight, ~~preferably about 30 % by weight~~, of at least one thickening agent;
 - b) about 20 to about 40 % by weight, ~~preferably about 30 % by weight~~, of at least one hydrophobing additive; and
 - c) remainder water.
14. (Withdrawn) The concrete thickener as claimed in Claim 13, wherein ~~the fact that the~~ thickening agent is an organic or inorganic polymer.
15. (Withdrawn) The concrete thickener as claimed in Claim 14, ~~the fact that the~~ thickening agent is selected from the group consisting of polyacrylates, polymethacrylates, polyurethanes, alginates, polyoses, cellulose derivatives, polycarboxylic acids, polyethers, polyimines, polyamides, silicic acid derivatives, zeolites and/or combinations thereof.
16. (New) The process of Claim 11, wherein the concrete thickener comprises about 30% by weight of at least one thickening agent.
17. (New) The process of Claim 11, wherein the concrete thickener comprises about 30% by weight of at least one hydrophobing additive.
18. (New) The process of claim 2, wherein the thickening agent is selected from the group consisting of polyacrylates, polyurethanes, cellulose derivatives and silicic acid derivatives.